

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



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Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE

Student Government Association

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J. P. BELL COMPANY, INC., PRINTERS, LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Foreword

WITH the opening of a college career, the great problems of control, and self-control in particular, seem uppermost. Aiding in the solution of this problem, with the co-operation of the faculty and the earnest work of former students, "Our Democracy," the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College, has arisen. This Association through the fourteen years of its existence has stood for the maintenance of our College standards.

The success of former years and of the years to come is intimately connected with the life and aim of each student who forms a unit of the democracy. Each citizen of the collegiate body should realize the importance of her hearty co-operation with the actions of her government by earnest interest and truthful expression of her own opinion. The fresh inspiration of the members of the Association, gathered together, are only greater steps toward the perfection of a system which shall stand for everything. Each individual is needed. Her value to the rest of the college is inestimable, if her idea and aim is always what is best for Sweet Briar College.

The observance of the rules and laws of the Association may at first seem irksome, but they become easy if we remember to uphold the high standard. To help in the upholding of our rule, we have drawn up a constitution.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Government Association

Agreement Concerning the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College.

OUR PETITION

The students of Sweet Briar College, believing that there is dignity and honor in Student Government, desire individual and community responsibility for the conduct of students in matters not strictly academic.

We, therefore, petition the president and faculty for legislative and executive control in certain matters.

We ask:

I.—Right to control quiet and order in all places about the buildings and campus that are not under the immediate control of a member of the Faculty.

II.—Permission, with the advice and approval of the Faculty, to extend our power as occasion arises and we prove worthy to be vested with greater power and authority.

III.—Permission to make such additions to the above as we may feel are necessary, with the consent and approval of the President and Faculty.

FACULTY'S REPLY

The Faculty of Sweet Briar College endorses most cordially the desire of the Student Body to assume responsibility for

the conduct of individual students in non-academic matters. Therefore, the Faculty accords permission to frame a constitution embodying laws regulating the points specified in the petition—said constitution to be submitted to the Faculty for endorsement.

Preamble

Whereas, We, the students of Sweet Briar College, desire to assume individual and community responsibility for the conduct of students in matters not strictly academic, and, whereas, we believe that there is dignity and honor in student government, we do hereby, in accordance with the agreement between the Faculty and students, organize ourselves into an Association.

Constitution

ARTICLE I.

The name of the Association shall be the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College.

ARTICLE II.

The purpose of the Association shall be government by the Student Body in respect to:

1. Promptness at such collegiate exercises, and quiet and order in such places in the buildings and on the campus as are not under the immediate control of a member of the Faculty.

ARTICLE III.

All persons pursuing studies at Sweet Briar College and residing in college buildings are active members of the Association and must conform to the regulations of the Association.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. In accordance with the resolution of the Faculty, dated October 20, 1906, the Association is empowered to deal with the conduct of the students, both individually and collectively, in matters not strictly academic.

Section 2. The Association shall have the power of inflicting penalties to enforce the decisions to the extent of expelling a member from the Association.

ARTICLE V.

Resolved, First, That the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association be printed and a copy given to every member of the Association.

Resolved, Second, That the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association be incorporated in the Student's Handbook.

ARTICLE VI.

Resolved, That forty-eight hours previous to any meeting of the Association a notice of said meeting be posted on the students' bulletin board. In cases requiring immediate or private action, this regulation may be set aside by the President.

ARTICLE VII.

The executive power of the Association shall be vested in a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, an Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five other members, who together with the Vice-President, may act as House Presidents of their respective dormitories; and in a Board of Proctors consisting of one Proctor from each district.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1. Two-thirds of the members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The nine officers of the Association shall be nominated by acclamation at a meeting of the Association held one week after the mid-year examinations, elections to be made by ballot a week later at a meeting of the Association.

Section 3. All elections shall be made by ballot.

Section 4. The President of the Association shall be elected from the Senior or Junior class; the Vice-President from the Senior or Junior class; the Secretary, Treasurer, and five other members from any college class.

Section 5. The Proctors shall be appointed every three weeks by the House Presidents, one Proctor for each district.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1-A. It shall be the duty of the President to call and preside at all meetings of the Association, to act as chairman of the Executive Committee, and of the Board of Proctors, to represent the students of the College on all occasions when the students require such representation, and to perform all the duties which pertain to the office of President of the Association.

Section 1-B. The President of the Association as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Board of Proctors, shall have the power of calling a meeting of any committee or committees of the Association.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and to act as House President.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings of all meetings of the Association, and to keep a permanent record of the same; to report to the Faculty of the College for ratification all amendments to the constitution or the by-laws adopted by the Association; to submit to the President of the College for her approval lists of officers, committees, boards, or other bodies appointed by the Association

or its officers; to attend to all correspondence of the Association not coming directly under the duties of the Treasurer, and to perform all other duties pertaining to the office of Secretary of the Association. She shall also act as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect the dues of the Association; to keep a strict account of all money of the Association, and to expend the same according to the direction of the Executive Committee of the Association.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of each House President to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and to exercise a general supervision over her district.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to see that judicial decisions and legislative resolutions of the Association are carried into effect; to execute its own decrees in matters not covered by such legislative resolutions; the action of the Committee, however, to be in all cases subject to revision or a repeal by the Association sitting as a judicial body.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to inflict penalties, in accordance with the scheme of penalties allowed by the Faculty, for all breaches of rules reported to it by the Proctors; to receive the reports of neglect of duty of any Proctor, and to inflict penalties on the same to the extent of removing them from office or expulsion from the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the power of summoning before it at its discretion any committee or board, any members of the Association, or of said committees or boards.

Section 4. Resolved, That the Executive Committee sitting as a court be empowered to require testimony from any member of the Association, and to inflict a penalty for refusal to testify, except in cases where for good and sufficient reasons it shall see fit to excuse the witness.

Section 5. Resolved, That in cases where the Executive Committee proceeds in the face of a denial, a reprimand shall issue or other penalty be imposed by the said committee only on the basis of a formal statement, signed by the Executive Committee, giving the nature of the testimony and the names of the witnesses. Such signed statement shall be presented to the accused if demanded by her.

ARTICLE XI.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Proctors to enforce the rules of the Association and to report to the House Presidents all serious breaches of rules.

Section 2. Each Proctor shall be responsible for obedience to the rules in her own district and shall submit a weekly report to the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Each Proctor who fails to hand in reports at time designated by the Executive Committee shall be fined a quarter.

Section 4. Each Proctor shall report specifically as to names and offenses.

Section 5. Any Proctor who leaves her district shall appoint a substitute during her absence.

Section 6. Any Proctor who fails to appoint a substitute during her absence from hall shall be fined ten cents.

Section 7. Proctors may be removed from office by the Executive Committee at any time if deemed inefficient in the performance of their duties.

Section 8. Members of the Executive Committee shall be special Proctors.

Section 9. Any student who believes herself to have been unjustly reported by any member of the Executive Committee or Board of Proctors shall have the right to ask that a special meeting of the Executive Committee be called. At said meeting a statement of facts concerning the offense shall be made by the Proctor, and the student and witnesses, if any, after which a vote of the quorum of the Executive Committee shall be taken and the decision of the majority abided by. But the student may appeal to the Association through the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII.

Section 1. The judicial power of the Association shall be vested:

A.—In the Association sitting as a judicial body, which shall constitute the highest court, wherein the rules of the majority shall prevail, two-thirds of the members of the Association being present.

B.—And in the Executive Committee, which shall constitute the lower court, before which all matters must first be brought, and from which alone an appeal may be made to the whole Association.

ARTICLE XIII.

A majority of those members of the Association who may be present at a meeting of the Association in the presence of a quorum, shall have all executive, legislative, and judicial power not prohibited in this constitution, and may confer

authority upon the officers or upon the Executive Committee or upon any committee or committees that may be hereafetr constituted.

ARTICLE XIV.

Should a vacancy occur in any office of the Association or in the Executive Committee, it shall be filled by special election by the Association, the nomination being made by the Executive Committee. In case no one of the nominees should be elected by the members of the Association who may be present at the meeting of the Association in the presence of a quorum, the Association shall have the power to recommend for the consideration of the Executive Committee such persons as it shall deem worthy of the office.

Section 2. No student shall be eligible for a permanent committee of the Association until she has resided in the College for one semester.

Section 3. Should a vacancy in any office of the Association occur at the opening of the first semester, nominations shall be voted on only by those members of the Association who have resided at the College one semester.

ARTICLE XV.

On the basis of a petition signed by one-tenth of the members of the Association, amendments to this constitution may be proposed to the Association sitting as a legislative body, which shall become valid to all intents and purposes as part of the constitution when ratified by two-thirds majority of the Association and approved by the Faculty of the College.

ARTICLE XVI.

Section 1. The Student Government Executive Committee shall co-operate with the President of the College in the enforcement of those rules not directly under the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association, concerning the general conduct of the students. See rules and regulations drawn up by the President of the College and the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XVII.

The Executive Committee of Student Government, together with eight members of the Faculty, shall form the College Council.

The purpose of the Council shall be to act as an intermediary body between the Faculty and the students. All matters which are to be presented to the Executive Committee of the Faculty by the students shall be presented through this Council. In cases of honor the Honor Council may be called in consultation. The Council may discuss topics of general college interest and offer recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Faculty or the Student Government Association.

A meeting of the College Council shall be held on the first Monday evening in each month at 7 o'clock (subject to change). Additional meetings may be called by the Faculty, Chairman of the Council, or by the President of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE XVIII.

The Student Government Association dues shall be \$1.25 per year.

ARTICLE XIX.

All offices held by students shall be divided into points, a certain number of points to each office.

One student may not hold more than fourteen points at one time.

Members of the Executive Board of Student Government may hold office in one other organization only.

System of Points

14 Points

President of Student Government Association.

President of Young Women's Christian Association.

President of Athletic Association.

President of Dramatic Association.

10 Points

Secretary of Student Government Association.

Editor-in-Chief of Annual.

Editor-in-Chief of Magazine.

8 Points

Business Manager of Annual.

Business Manager of Magazine.

Chairman of Current Events Club.

6 Points

Secretary of Young Women's Christian Association.

Treasurer of Young Women's Christian Association.

Treasurer of Student Government Association.

Treasurer of Athletic Association.

Executive Committee Members.

Head Basket-Ball.

Head Hockey.

4 Points

Vice-President of Student Government Association.

Vice-President of Young Women's Christian Association.

Vice-President of Athletic Association.

Vice-President of Dramatic Association.

Secretary and Treasurer of Dramatic Association.

Secretary of Athletic Association.

Chairman of Temporary Committee.

Chairman of Standing Committee.

President of Dramatic Club.

Staff Members of Magazine.

2 Points

Members of Dramatic Committee.

Members of Social Service Committee.

Members of Extension Committee.

ARTICLE XX.

All secret organizations are forbidden. The penalty for infringement of this resolution shall be expulsion from the Association.

ARTICLE XXI.

No student who is deficient in her academic work, or is not in good standing with the Student Government Association shall hold office in the Association or be nominated for May Queen, take part in Association plays, or be in the court.

Second, Deficiency in academic work shall be further defined as the failure to meet an average of 75 per cent.

Third, Elections for May Queen shall be held three weeks after mid-year examinations.

ARTICLE XXII.

Section 1. We, the members of the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College, do hereby assume individual and associate responsibility of supporting our standard of honor in all phases of college activity.

Section 2. All action on the part of the Association in upholding our standard of honor shall be in the hands of a Council which shall consist of one representative from each college class.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Section 1. All college students pursuing studies at Sweet Briar College are expected to conform to the rules of the Association in regard to order and quiet.

Section 2. All guests of students are expected to conform to the rules of the Association in regard to order and quiet, the students themselves being responsible for their guests.

Section 3. No guest will be allowed to come to a meeting of the Association without the permission of the President.

Student Government By-Laws

I.—QUIET

1. Reasonable quiet shall be observed always in and around all college buildings.

2. On each week day except Saturday there shall be no disturbance in the dormitories during the following quiet hours:

8:20 a. m. to 12:50 p. m.

1:45 p. m. to 2:30 p. m.

7:30 p. m. to 10:00 p. m.

3. There shall be absolute quiet after lights.

4. There shall be no piano playing in Randolph during chapel.

II.—AFTER LIGHTS

1. No one may be out of the dormitories after lights unchaperoned without permission from the President of Student Government.

III.—WALKING AND RIDING

1. There shall be no walking or riding in dangerous places or at unsuitable hours.

2. There shall be no walking in groups of less than three outside of campus limits.

3. There shall be no riding alone except on college grounds without permission of Miss McVea.

IV.—AMHERST

1. Parties going to dinner in Amherst shall be composed of four or more girls, one of whom is a Senior.

V.—SELECTION OF AUTOMOBILES

1. There shall be no riding in automobiles except those approved by the College.

VI.—SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1. Students shall observe certain definite formalities concerning dates with young men on Saturday nights and Sundays.

- a. Permissions for Saturday dates:

1. Freshmen must obtain permission from the general Freshman Adviser before noon Saturday.
 2. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors must obtain permission from the President of Student Government before 11:30 a. m. Saturday.

- b. Permissions for Sunday dates:

1. Permission must be obtained from President of Student Government by 10 a. m. Sunday.

- c. Regular Sunday hours 12 m. to 6 p. m.

1. Exceptions:

- a. If men come before noon, they must go to church.
 - b. To stay later than 6 p. m. special permission must be obtained from the President of Student Government.

2. Men are not expected to be entertained at the College during the week except in very special cases.

3. Gym:

- a. Men must be introduced to chaperons before dancing.
- b. Men must leave by 10 p. m.

VII.—LYNCHBURG

1. Dignified behavior shall be observed in Lynchburg at all times.
2. There shall be no dates with men after 7:30 p. m.
3. Every student shall return promptly to college.

VIII.—ABSENCES

1. No one may leave the campus for a night at any time without permission.
 - a. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors shall consult the Registrar.
 - b. Freshmen shall consult the general Freshman Adviser.

IX.—DINING AT THE VIRGINIAN

1. No one shall dine at the Virginian with young men unchaperoned. A college chaperon will be provided for Saturdays.

X.—SUNDAYS

1. The spirit of Sunday shall be observed throughout the day. The piano shall not be used on Sunday for "jazz" music.
2. No one shall go to Lynchburg or drive in an automobile unchaperoned without permission.
 - a. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors shall consult the Registrar.
 - b. Freshmen shall consult the general Freshman Adviser.
3. There shall be no walking, driving, or riding during church.

XI.—DANCING

1. At no time shall there be dancing in public places in Lynchburg.

XII.—SMOKING

1. Smoking will not be countenanced either in public or in private.

XIII.—RIDING

1. Riding unchaperoned in cars with young men is never allowed.

XIV.—HAZING

1. There shall be no hazing at any time. The Varsity Council will retain its special province.

XV.—COLLEGE PROPERTY

1. Students will show careful consideration for college buildings and grounds.

XVI.—RELIGIOUS MEETINGS

1. Sunday morning and Thursday night chapel attendance is compulsory.
 - a. Every student is allowed nine chapel cuts a semester. A Sunday cut counts as two.

PENALTIES

For continuous behavior which interferes with the harmony and well-being of the college community life, a girl is liable to the following penalties:

1. In the case of several minor offenses, the girl will be asked to leave college, but will be given an honorable dismissal.
2. In the case of several serious offenses, the girl will be expelled from college.
3. Any student is liable to expulsion for any flagrant offense, according to the discretion of the College Council.
4. Any student is liable to be dismissed or expelled if her actions, general attitude and tone of behavior seem to be at variance with the college standards.

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